



February 25, 2010

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: City of Indianapolis, Indiana – FY'11 Appropriation Requests

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the City of Indianapolis, I would like to thank you personally for your assistance in federal matters. Your support of Indianapolis has been generous, and members of your staff have been extremely helpful during my term in office. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

In preparation for the **FY'11 appropriations process**, we have identified several projects which directly affect and benefit the welfare, safety, health, and economy of the City and its neighborhoods. Accordingly, please accept this letter as a formal request to be considered for federal funding in Fiscal Year 2011. This letter is intended to provide you with a concise description of the important projects for which the City is seeking assistance.

The following projects fall into three general categories: 1) Public Safety Innovations, 2) Infrastructure for Connectivity, and 3) Neighborhood Revitalization through Parks Investments. Keeping the citizens of Indianapolis safe from crime and danger, connecting them to jobs and opportunities, and making their neighborhoods better places to live are paramount to a world class city. These requests aim to make progress towards such goals.

1. **Digital Interrogation Equipment Project.** Advances in digital technology, if implemented by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department ("IMPD"), have the potential to improve crime solving and to ensure fairness in the criminal justice system. A digital photo archiving system will allow officers to upload crime scene photos and provide immediate access to criminal justice agencies. Under the existing system, agencies request the paper photos from the Photo Lab, which then retrieves the photos. The new Photo Lab software will increase efficiency and the availability of crime scene photos, thereby increasing the ability of the IMPD to successfully investigate crimes.

Further, beginning in 2013, the Indiana law will require all custodial interrogations to be digitally recorded, both video and audio, for use in the criminal justice process. The recording of all custodial interrogations by all law enforcement entities will have the benefit of removing any questions as to the conditions under which confessions or incriminating statements were made by suspects in criminal cases. The Indiana Supreme Court recently found that in too many criminal cases, questions arose for juries and judges as to the voluntariness of custodial statements and the completeness of the statements. By recording all statements with video and audio equipment these questions can be eliminated. It is anticipated that criminal trials will be reduced significantly through the use of this equipment. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$245,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for our Digital Interrogation Equipment Project.***

2. **Downtown Transportation Improvements Project.** This project will provide for the rehabilitation of the roads and related improvements along the confluence of Market and Meridian Streets in the downtown Indianapolis area. These two streets converge at the heart of the City's economic activity center, which radiates from this locale into the greater downtown area. Currently, Market and Meridian Streets, along with the adjoining sidewalks and fixtures, are plagued by the following: deterioration of the asphalt brick paver setting bed; failure in the underlying concrete base; spalling and cracking in the concrete ribbons; utility cuts made in the brick pavement; heaving of the underlying base at joints; and cracking between the curb and gutter sections. This project will allow for the repair and replacement of brick streets, brick sidewalks, and related fixtures such as lighting, landscaping, street trees, and street furniture along the confluence of Market and Meridian Streets in the downtown Indianapolis area. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for the Downtown Transportation Improvements Project.***

3. **IFD – ALS and AED Equipment Project.** The Indianapolis Fire Department's ("IFD") current cardiac monitors are five to seven years old and experience frequent mechanical failures. Such failures can mean the difference between life and death in fire-related and medical-related events. Appropriated funding would purchase 10 Advanced Life Support (ALS) cardiac monitors and 16 Automated Electronic Defibrillators ("AEDs"), as part of a five-year program started in 2009 to replace all IFD ALS monitors and AEDs. The uniform replacement of the devices ensures that each firefighter and emergency medical personnel knows how to operate the device and that the device will function properly. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$200,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its IFD – ALS and AED Equipment Project.***

4. **Avondale Meadows Revitalization Project.** This project will holistically redevelop the Meadows neighborhood which is currently one of the City's most challenged neighborhoods due to concentrated poverty and high crime. The plan includes new housing opportunities for over 800 low, moderate and middle income residents; creation of over 700 construction related jobs during the redevelopment and over 455 permanent jobs after project completion; an improved environment for the two existing charter schools to thrive; reduced crime and safer environment; retail outlets including a grocery store that will offer fresh foods; a large community center for recreation, health, human and social service providers; sustainable green development and construction that will offer utility cost savings to residents and ongoing operations that will be environmentally sound; a five-acre park and

many more acres of green space for smaller parks, community gardens and walking/biking trails; and enhanced transit and connectivity based on existing and planned transit routes. The overall objective is to redevelop the Meadows area into a safe, strong, attractive, environmentally friendly, mixed-income neighborhood that will help improve the quality of life for the residents, create jobs, promote education and enhance safety and stability in this historically challenged neighborhood. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for the Avondale Meadows Revitalization Project.***

5. **International Sports Park Project.** The City's first international sports complex would be a destination for cultural, recreational, and educational activities. A 40 plus acre park would host a center reflecting sister cities across the world with cultural events and themed spaces celebrating diversity and connections. This project request consists of the grading of the site to eventually develop a series of multi-use fields and facilities (e.g., walking trails, shelters, international gardens, and parking). This project would also serve as a hub for school and family programs by both IndyParks and other service organizations in Central Indiana. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its International Sports Park Project.***

6. **Indianapolis Traffic Congestion Management Project.** An active Traffic Management Center will increase efficiency within the City's Department of Public Works. The system will synchronize traffic signals and in turn, decrease the amount of time residents spend in congestion. Additionally, the proposed system will decrease the amount of wasted fuel, thus reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions in the City.

It has been reported that within the Indianapolis urbanized area from 1982 to 2002, surface street travel has increased 110% while the surface street lane-miles has increased only 29%. In order to offset these differing rates, it becomes necessary to utilize our transportation systems in a much more efficient manner. An active Traffic Management Center will do such. It is also predicted that an 8% reduction in fuel usage can be achieved by the implementation this coordinated traffic signal system. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$1,200,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for it Traffic Congestion Management Project.***

7. **IFD – Surface Supplied Air System Project.** The Surface-Supplied Air System allows divers to receive an endless supply of air instead of relying on a tank. One of the dive teams currently uses the Surface-Supplied Air System, and this funding would purchase a system for the second IFD team. Purchasing a Surface-Supplied Air System for the second dive team would increase the effectiveness and safety of the dive team. Under the current tank system, divers must take time away from their rescue efforts to replace their air supply. With the Surface-Supplied Air System, the rescue personnel will be able to maintain their rescue efforts over significant periods of time. The overall objective of this project is to increase the effectiveness and safety of the two IFD dive teams. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$70,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations to purchase a Surface-Supplied Air System for the IFD Dive Team.***

8. **Brookside Transit & Greenway Connector Project.** This project will acquire a distressed and inactive former rail corridor that holds the potential to bring jobs and transit options to the lowest income urban core area of Indianapolis, an area which was recently identified by HUD, DOT and EPA as one of five pilot Sustainable Communities designations in the United States. The neighborhoods around this project would gain access to future transit maintenance jobs on a 20-acre brownfield site just north of Brookside Park, due east of the Keystone Enterprise Park. This project would connect that site to the proposed Nickel Plate line from Indianapolis to Fishers. It would also connect these neighborhoods to other jobs via that transit system and to new multimodal transit centers that will house police sub-stations and neighborhood amenities, including fresh food. Environmental Justice concerns would be also be addressed by the accompanying brownfield site cleanup. In the near-term, the site could be used as an IndyGo para-transit maintenance facility which would create jobs in this low income neighborhood. *Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,600,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its Brookside Transit & Greenway Connector Project.*

9. **Public Safety Youth Initiative.** The Department of Public Safety is proposing a Public Safety Youth Initiative. Historically, the Department of Public Safety has used a "silo" process for youth initiatives (i.e., each agency within Public Safety having its own designated youth programs dependent on funding, grant and/or other local resources). Our goal is to build a coordinated and focused program to address juvenile involvement in the criminal justice system. This will be achieved by building on current relationships between IMPD with GREAT, IFD with Survive Alive, and each entity with the school systems located within Marion County. School systems and public safety agencies would expand programs and include Animal Care & Control as well as Emergency Planning Division. All agencies would blend and share resources working as a public safety team with prevention programs as well as teaching enforcement programs. *Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$750,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its Public Safety Youth Initiative.*

10. **IMPD – Civilian CSI Initiative.** Evidence collection from all crimes scenes, except those involving homicide or other very serious sex offenses, are handled currently by IMPD officers assigned as de facto crime scene technicians. In an effort to allow those officers to concentrate their full attention and time to street level patrol and crime prevention and to develop a more professional cadre of evidence technicians, the Department of Public Safety and IMPD proposes to create a civilian crime scene technician staff. It would partner with the Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency (Crime Lab) to help recruit qualified applicants and provide training for the collection of evidence at all crime scenes. *Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$1,000,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its Civilian CSI Initiative.*

11. **Indianapolis Belt Railroad Upgrade.** A key to passenger rail potentially serving the downtown central business district is the use of the CSX mainline, which traverses the downtown from east to west, through the heart of the City. If freight traffic could be diverted, passenger rail lines could directly serve downtown and the historic Union Station. A possible option is a "belt" railway that exists around the near south side of the Indianapolis downtown. If upgraded, freight traffic could be rerouted to that line. This project would transform downtown Indianapolis, opening up opportunities for redevelopment along the current CSX main line, which bisects the central business district. The project would enhance rail

crossing safety and would remove the transport of hazardous materials from the heart of the downtown, where significant population centers exist. The project would also allow for significant economic development/re-development opportunities and would facilitate passenger rail and high speed rail service to and from the downtown via Union Station. It would also improve rail operations for the large amount of freight service that moves through downtown Indianapolis. Additionally, the project would reduce vehicle delays (and thus reduce vehicular emissions) and would improve access for emergency vehicles. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its Belt Railroad Upgrade.***

12. **Northeast Corridor Transit Study.** This project would provide opportunities for redevelopment along the northeast side of Indianapolis. This transit corridor connects Central Indiana's fastest growing communities with the central business district. The project could result in significant economic development through enhanced neighborhood development in aging and abandoned inner city neighborhoods, and provide workforce mobility to the central business district and suburban (reverse commute) employment opportunities. The project would also provide transportation alternatives in a corridor of Indianapolis that has seen explosive population growth and the negative effects of limited mobility. Additionally, the project would reduce vehicle delays (and thus reduce vehicular emissions). ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its Northeast Corridor Transit Study.***

13. **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Project.** IndyParks is in the middle of a major re-envisioning of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Park. The project includes the site of the historic Robert F. Kennedy speech given on the night of the assassination of Dr. King. The plan is to open 19th Street, which currently does not connect through the park, to offer easier access to the ceremonial area of the park that recognizes the historical significance of the landmark while at the same time keeping active recreational programming to the north of 19th street. The project consists of installing the 19th Street connection, interpretive kiosk, outdoor classrooms, basketball courts, picnic shelters and a playground. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,000,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Park Project.***

14. **Grassy Creek Park Center Project.** IndyParks proposes to develop its first new regional park in decades—the Grassy Creek Regional Park, a 160-acre area in an economically challenged neighborhood straddling IPS, Lawrence, and Warren school districts. The project includes: sports fields, a skate park, walking trails, picnic shelters, a playground, a disc golf course, a community and aquatics center, and an environmental education center. The park is adjacent to John Marshall Community High and Andrew J. Brown Charter schools. Future plans to extend the greenway system along Grassy Creek would connect proposed walking trails in this park to the surrounding community. ***Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for its New Grassy Creek Regional Park Development.***


15. **Rev. Mozel Sanders Park Project.** IndyParks is developing the Rev. Mozel Sanders Park, a new park on a 13-acre landfill in an economically challenged neighborhood. The project consists of sports fields, tennis courts, walking trails, and picnic shelters. The park is adjacent to an IPS elementary

school. Future plans are to extend the White River State Park trails to the park. *Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for the Mozel Sanders Park.*

16. Central Greens Park Project. Central State has long been known as a historic site on the near west side of the City. This land is the site of the former Central State Psychiatric Treatment Hospital. The land was acquired from the State of Indiana, by the City, in 2003. IndyParks plans to use the green space on this site to consolidate and present an amateur sports destination. The geographic area surrounding the site would be tremendously impacted by the economic value of additional commercial and green footprints. The project consists of the grading of the site to develop its use. Engineering costs through local dollars will be used to prepare engineering and construction documents. The improvements would act as a catalysis for economic development in the area and would be a host site for the diverse ethnic groups of the surrounding neighborhoods to host and participate in events. *Accordingly, the City respectfully requests \$2,500,000 in FY'11 federal appropriations for the Central Greens Park Project.*

If the City of Indianapolis is to prosper, it must bring new vitality to all of its neighborhoods. We believe the way to bring such vitality is through public safety and security; interconnectivity; and places to engage in civic matters. The above projects further strengthen the vitality we seek to achieve. We would greatly appreciate any support you can provide in helping to secure federal funding for the high priority projects and programs identified above. If you require any additional information on any of these projects, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Best regards,



Gregory A. Ballard
Mayor
City of Indianapolis